

CELEBRATING CLARKE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent success of a high school football team in Iowa's Second District. For the first time in 31 years, the Clarke Community High School Indians are headed to the playoffs. The team finished the regular season with a 5-and-3 record, which is also a first in 31 years.

Although their season had plenty of ups and downs, the team persevered and worked hard to make their community proud. They will be traveling up to Williamsburg, Iowa, tomorrow, October 22, to take on the Raiders in the first round of the playoffs. I am confident that Clarke will make the Second District proud.

Congratulations to Coach Quinlan and his staff, and all the players, and the entire Clarke County community on their success, and good luck tomorrow night.

SAVE OUR SERVICEMEMBERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that has become a national crisis and that must be immediately addressed. Serving in the Army for 24 years as both a nurse and a physician, from the Vietnam era to the first Gulf War, I have seen many of my fellow veterans suffer from anxiety, depression, survivor's guilt, and PTSD. Many veterans are still living with those scars, and without proper care and treatment, mental health crises can make everyday life a struggle or even life-threatening for them or their families.

Yesterday, I partnered with my fellow veterans, Congressman RUBEN GALLEGO, a corporal in the Marine Corps, Senator JONI ERNST, a fellow veteran and a fellow Army lieutenant colonel, and Senator MARK KELLY, a captain in the Navy, to introduce the Save Our Servicemembers Act.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation would direct the Pentagon to evaluate the effectiveness of their suicide prevention efforts and to improve its data collection, reduce bureaucratic duplication, and strengthen collaboration between its offices.

I am heartbroken at the continued rise in suicides in the veteran community and our military communities. It is no secret that our servicemembers often face invisible challenges when they return to civilian life, and we need to do a better job addressing their needs and the needs of their families.

We need to look into all of our mental health and suicide prevention programs to better service our heroes, and I am proud to partner with an incredible group of veterans in Congress on this legislation.

To our servicemembers and our veterans, I want you to know that you are

not alone and there are people who care and are trained to help you in any mental health crisis you might face.

I encourage everyone to check in on your family and your friends because sometimes the deepest wounds are the ones that we cannot see.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STATE TROOPER TED BENDA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragic loss of one of Iowa's heroes.

Yesterday, October 20, Iowa State Trooper Ted Benda passed away from injuries sustained during a crash while responding to a call for help to detain a wanted suspect in Clayton County.

Over his 16-year public safety career, Trooper Benda served with honor and courage each and every day. Trooper Benda began his public safety career with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation in 2005. He later moved to the Special Enforcement Operations Bureau, and finally, to the Iowa State Patrol, admirably serving communities in Northeast Iowa.

It is days like this when we are reminded of the sacrifices so many of our law enforcement officers make every day. I am proud to say that I was always ready to support them and do whatever I could in Congress to ensure that they are properly funded, trained, and equipped. Trooper Benda was a hero, not just in his community, but to all of Iowa. His years of dedication and service will never be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with Trooper Benda's wife, Holly, their four young children, all of his loved ones, and the entire Iowa State Patrol family.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, bless this day. Give favor to our labor and consecrate our whole selves to Your gracious plan. Be pleased to use us as instruments of Your will.

Use our hands, that they would reach out at the impulse of Your love; our feet that they would be swift and sure to follow Your direction.

Use our voices that we would magnify Your message of mercy and our

words that they would bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness.

Take our wills and our hearts and make them Yours. May we not hold back the spiritual gifts with which You have graced us that You would reveal Yourself through our efforts.

All that we are, all that we aim to do, all that we hope to be, we owe to You. We give You our moments, our days, our very lives, in gratitude and in faithfulness to You. And may we prove worthy of Your faith in us.

In Your gracious name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DICK GRIFFIN

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dick Griffin, a towering figure in Buffalo's legal community and one of our leading citizens.

Dick worked to make Buffalo a more just place as a champion of the civil rights movement in the courtroom and as a trusted adviser to national and local civil rights leaders.

An attorney for 64 years, he was admired and respected widely for his talent, capability, and legal mind, so much so that later in his career, he was called upon to arbitrate some of the toughest regional legal issues, including that of compensation for the victims of the tragedy of Flight 3407.

He cared deeply about his community and played an active role in civic and philanthropic efforts to improve parks, public spaces, and whole neighborhoods.

We mourn the loss of Dick Griffin today and extend our condolences to his wife and my friend, Dr. Jane Griffin, and their children Mary, Anne, Thomas, and Richard.